
eRA NIH Roadmap Overview

1.0.0.0 Release Notes

NIH Roadmap—Themes and Implementation Groups

New Pathways to Discovery

- Bioinformatics and Computational Biology
- Building Blocks and Pathways
- Molecular Libraries and Molecular Imaging
- Nanomedicine
- Structural Biology

Research Teams of the Future

- High-Risk Research-NIH Director's Innovator Award
- Interdisciplinary Research
- Public-Private Partnerships

Re-engineering Clinical Research

- Clinical Research

The NIH Roadmap for Medical Research, spearheaded by Dr. Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D., director of the NIH, charts the direction for medical research in the 21st century. As a result of a series of meetings convened by Dr. Zerhouni, major opportunities were identified as well as gaps in biomedical research that no NIH institute could address alone but which needed to be addressed.

With input from more than 300 nationally recognized leaders in academia, industry, government and the public, the NIH Roadmap provides the framework for the strategic investments that the NIH needs to make to advance its entire research portfolio.

To be part of the Roadmap, scientific initiatives had to be deemed of high potential impact, had to enhance the disease and mission-specific activities of all of NIH's 27 ICs, and had to respond to the needs and concerns of the public.

The directors of all 27 ICs approved 28 initiatives to be carried out by 9 implementation groups under 3 main themes (see sidebar). The number of initiatives may increase over time.

The general hierarchy for each area of the Roadmap organization is as follows:

Theme → Groups → Initiative(s) → RFAs

Roadmap applications and funding opportunities will be announced through—

- Broad Agency Announcements (BAA)
- Request for Proposals (RFP)
- Request for Applications (RFA)
- Request for Information (RFI)
- Notices

Each of these will be made using an announcement number beginning with the characters “RM”, such as RFA announcement RM-04-018 for the Initiative “Nanomedicine Center Concept Development Awards.” However, there may be more than one announcement for each Initiative. Consequently, each announcement title may differ from the title of the Initiative and will have a unique announcement number.

Roadmap and the eRA

Many changes were required to accommodate Roadmap in the eRA System.

A “virtual” Institute/Center (IC) called “RM” was created for the NIH Roadmap in the eRA System.

All Roadmap applications will have a primary assignment to a lead IC and an RM secondary assignment. It also may have additional secondary assignments to one or more ICs.

- The lead IC will have a standard Program Official/Officer (PO) assignment on the application.
- The RM secondary IC will have a Project Team Lead assignment on the application.
- Any non-RM secondary ICs will have standard secondary PO assignments on the application.

The lead IC and non-RM IC assignments will be made via an IC’s Program Class Code (PCC). The RM secondary assignment will be made through new PCCs created for the RM IC. The format of the PCC is as follows:

- First and second characters of the PCC: **Theme**
- Third character of the PCC: **Implementation Group**
- Fourth and Fifth characters of the PCC: **Initiative**

For example, the PCC number, 1AE01, is “decoded” in Table 1, *PCC Format*.

Table 1. PCC Format

Character(s)	Denotes
IA	Theme: New Pathways to Discovery
E	Implementation Group: Nanomedicine
01	Initiative: Planning for Nanomedicine Centers

Special Emphasis Panels (SEPs) in the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) are reviewing some Roadmap applications, and some are being reviewed in SEPs established by review staff from the lead IC. The Project Team members will be responsible for helping the SRA with

reviewer recommendations. Only the lead and dual-interest IC will be taking Roadmap applications to council.

If the application is funded with Roadmap funds, the lead IC PO will participate in award approval activities.

The funding of Roadmap applications will be done through a unique set of Common Account Codes (CANs). Each IC has been assigned a minimum of three CANs, for intramural and extramural grants, and contracts.

If the application is not funded with Roadmap funds, one or more ICs can consider funding the application with IC funds. If this occurs, the project will take on the status of "Roadmap affiliated" and will be tracked through Roadmap evaluation measures.

Roadmap Implementation in eRA

Implementation of Roadmap in eRA will be conducted in phases:

Phase 1 Implement modification required to process and award Roadmap applications. This phase has been completed.

Phase 2 Implement via Web QT the ability to query and report on Roadmap applications.

Future phases Add additional functionality.

Phase 1

For reporting and tracking Roadmap projects, three new tables to store Roadmap Themes, Implementation Groups, and Initiatives were created. The tables were populated and will be maintained by OD.

Additionally, for reporting and tracking Roadmap projects, four Roadmap codes will be defined. The code will denote if and how the application is related to the NIH Roadmap. The code will not be stored in the eRA system database, but will be derived based on the logic in Table 1, *Roadmap Code Logic*.

Table 2. Roadmap Code Logic

Roadmap Code	Description	Logic
Yes	It is a Roadmap application. It may or may not be funded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadmap RFA • Roadmap dual assignment • If awarded, must have a Roadmap-coded CAN
No	It is not a Roadmap application.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a Roadmap RFA
Affiliated	It is a Roadmap application but it is funded from a non-Roadmap CAN.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadmap RFA • Must be funded with a CAN where not exists Roadmap code
Related	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD

The following scenarios will not occur in the eRA System:

- Roadmap RFA but no Roadmap dual, since the R&R module will automatically assign the dual
- Not a Roadmap RFA, but awarded using a Roadmap-coded CAN

The eRA Grant Snapshot will be modified to denote Roadmap applications. A new section in the report will indicate the Roadmap Code, Theme, Implementation Group, and Initiative.

Phase 2

The Web Query Tool (Web QT) will provide capabilities on a separate Roadmap page to track Roadmap applications received by NIH, using the RFA#, Theme, Implementation Group, and Initiative, among other criteria. It also will provide a Roadmap-specific hitlist layout.

References

- Implementation of Roadmap in eRA (IMPAC II & IRDB)
- NIH Roadmap website: <http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/>
- My NIH intranet: <http://my.nih.gov> (select “Communities on the menu and select “NIH Roadmap Intranet”)
- Glossary: <http://era.nih.gov/aboutera/glossary.cfm>
- eRA System (internal): <http://impacii.nih.gov/>
- **Release Notes:**
 - ICO: http://impacii.nih.gov/icoDoc/ICO_RN_V2.8.6.0.pdf
 - CRISP Plus: http://impacii.nih.gov/cpDoc/CP_RN_V3560.pdf
 - Web QT:
http://impacii.nih.gov/webqtdoc/WebQT3.2.1.0_RN_08-20-04.pdf